

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising.~~

A communication apparatus for use in conjunction with one or more devices which are implanted into a living being, comprising:

at least one two-way transceiver for communicating with at least one of an external monitor and the one or more implanted devices, wherein the at least one two-way transceiver is electrically independent of the one or more implanted devices;

a memory device for storing data;

a control module for processing data stored in the memory device and managing communication using the at least one two-way transceiver; and

at least one sensor for detecting stimulus generated by at least one of the one or more implanted devices and the living being.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 7~~

A communication apparatus for use in conjunction with one or more devices which are implanted into a living being, comprising:

at least one two-way transceiver for communicating with at least one of an external monitor and the one or more implanted devices, wherein the at least one two-way transceiver is electrically independent of the one or more implanted devices;

a memory device for storing data;

a control module for processing data stored in the memory device and managing communication using the at least one two-way transceiver; and
a power supply which is rechargeable, wherein the power supply is recharged using an electromechanical recharging system.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 5~~

A communication apparatus for use in conjunction with one or more devices which are implanted into a living being, comprising;

at least one two-way transceiver for communicating with at least one of an external monitor and the one or more implanted devices, wherein the at least one two-way transceiver is electrically independent of the one or more implanted devices;

a memory device for storing data;

a control module for processing data stored in the memory device and managing communication using the at least one two-way transceiver; and

a sealed case suitable for implantation in said living being, the case housing the at least one two-way transceiver, the control module, and the memory device, wherein the sealed case includes mechanical attachment components for attaching to the one or more implanted devices.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 12 wherein~~

A system for monitoring and communicating with at least one device implanted within a living being comprising:

a monitoring center which is capable of communicating, storing, and processing electronic data;

a communication network capable of long-range communication;

an external monitor located external and in proximity to the living being and capable of transmitting and receiving communication signals to and from the monitoring center via the communication network; and

a transceiver apparatus capable of communicating, storing and processing electronic data, wherein

the transceiver apparatus is capable of transmitting and receiving communication signals to and from the at least one implanted device and the external monitor;

the transceiver apparatus is electronically independent from the at least one implanted device; and

said communication signals are encrypted between the at least one implanted device, the transceiver apparatus, the external monitor, and the monitoring center.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 12 wherein~~

A system for monitoring and communicating with at least one device implanted within a living being comprising:

a monitoring center which is capable of communicating, storing, and processing electronic data;

a communication network capable of long-range communication;

an external monitor located external and in proximity to the living being and capable of transmitting and receiving communication signals to and from the monitoring center via the communication network; and

a transceiver apparatus capable of communicating, storing and processing electronic data, wherein

the transceiver apparatus is capable of transmitting and receiving communication signals to and from the at least one implanted device and the external monitor;

the transceiver apparatus is electronically independent from the at least one implanted device; and

the transceiver apparatus is contained in a sealed case capable of being implanted into a living being.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 12 wherein~~

A system for monitoring and communicating with at least one device implanted within a living being comprising:

a monitoring center which is capable of communicating, storing, and processing electronic data;

a communication network capable of long-range communication;

an external monitor located external and in proximity to the living being and capable of transmitting and receiving communication signals to and from the monitoring center via the communication network; and

a transceiver apparatus capable of communicating, storing and processing electronic data, wherein

the transceiver apparatus is capable of transmitting and receiving communication signals to and from the at least one implanted device and the external monitor;

the transceiver apparatus is electronically independent from the at least one implanted device; and

the transceiver apparatus is configured to sense actions performed by the at least one implanted device.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A method of monitoring and reprogramming at least one device implanted within a living being, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing actions performed by the at least one implanted device and physiologic signals from the living being;

compiling information defining the performed actions and physiological signals into a data report;

storing the data report;

analyzing the data report to determine whether the at least one implanted device operates properly; and

remotely reprogramming the at least one implanted device if it is determined in the analyzing step that the at least one implanted device is not operating properly.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the sensing step is performed by a transceiver apparatus capable of two-way communication with the at least one implanted device.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of sending the data report from the transceiver apparatus to a monitor external to the living being and located in proximity to the transceiver apparatus.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of sending the data report from the external monitor to a monitoring center via a communication network.

25-35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) A method of monitoring and responding to the physical condition of a patient, wherein the patient has one or more devices implanted in the patient's body, comprising the steps of:

sensing actions performed by the one or more implanted devices and physiologic signals from the patient;

compiling information defining the performed actions and physiological signals into a data report;

storing the data report;

analyzing the data report to determine whether the at least one implanted device operates properly and whether the patient needs medical treatment;

notifying medical personnel if it is determined that the implanted device is not operating properly; and

alerting medical personnel if it is determined that the patient needs medical treatment.

37. (Original) A system for notifying medical personnel of a patient's medical needs, wherein the patient has at least one device implanted in the patient's body, comprising:

a monitor located external to the patient's body;

a transceiver located so as to transmit and receive signals between the transceiver and the implanted device, and so as to transmit and receive signals between the transceiver and the monitor such that device operation information is communicated from the implanted device via the transceiver to the monitor, and such that control signals are communicated from the monitor via the transceiver to the implanted device; and

a monitoring center configured so as to receive the device operation information from the monitor, and so as to notify a first contact medical personnel that the patient needs medical treatment, and so as to notify a second medical personnel that the patient needs treatment if the first contact medical personnel does not respond to notification, and so as to notify subsequent contact medical personnel if previous contact medical personnel do not respond to notification.

38. (Original) A method of notifying medical personnel of a patient's medical needs, wherein the patient has at least one device implanted in the patient's body, comprising the steps of:

determining that the patient needs medical treatment;

sending an alert message to a medical contact; and

sending a subsequent alert message to a subsequent medical contact if a response message in response to a previously sent alert message is not received.

39. (Original) A system for monitoring and reprogramming at least one device implanted within a living being comprising:

means for sensing actions performed by the at least one implanted device and physiologic signals from the living being;

means for compiling information defining the performed actions and physiological signals into a data report;

means for storing the data report;

means for analyzing the data report to determine whether the at least one implanted device operates properly; and

means for remotely reprogramming the at least one implanted device if it is determined by the analyzing means that the at least one implanted device is not operating properly.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein the sensing means is a transceiver apparatus capable of two-way communication with the at least one implanted device.

41. (Original) The system of claim 40 further comprising means for sending the data report from the transceiver apparatus to a monitor external to the living being and located in proximity to the transceiver apparatus.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41 further comprising means for sending the data report from the external monitor to a monitoring center via a communication network.

43. (Currently amended) A system for monitoring and responding to the physical condition of a patient, wherein the patient has one or more devices implanted in the patient's body, comprising:

means for sensing actions performed by the one or more implanted devices and physiologic signals from the patient;

means for compiling information defining the performed actions and physiological signals into a data report;

means for storing the data report;

means for analyzing the data report to determine whether the at least one implanted device operates properly and whether the patient needs medical treatment;

means for notifying medical personnel if it is determined that the implanted device ~~[[in]]~~is not operating properly; and

means for alerting medical personnel if it is determined that the patient needs medical treatment.

44. (Original) A system for notifying medical personnel of a patient's medical needs, wherein the patient has at least one device implanted in the patient's body, comprising: means for determining that the patient needs medical treatment;

means for sending an alert message to a medical contact; and

means for sending a subsequent alert message to a subsequent medical contact if a response message in response to a previously sent alert message is not received.

45. (Original) A method of monitoring and reprogramming at least one device implanted within a living being, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing actions performed by the at least one implanted device and physiologic signals from the living being;

evaluating the sensed actions and physiological signals to determine the operation integrity of the at least one implanted device; and

remotely reprogramming the at least one implanted device if it is determined that the at least one implanted device is not operating properly.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the sensing step is performed by a transceiver apparatus capable of two-way communication with the at least one implanted device.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of sending the data report from the transceiver apparatus to a monitor external to the living being and located in proximity to the transceiver apparatus.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47 further comprising the step of sending the data report from the external monitor to a monitoring center via a communication network.

49. (Currently amended) A system for monitoring and reprogramming at least one device implanted within a living being, the ~~method~~system comprising ~~the steps of~~:

means for sensing actions performed by the at least one implanted device and physiologic signals from the living being;

means for evaluating the sensed actions and physiological signals to determine the operation integrity of the at least one implanted device; and

means for remotely reprogramming the at least one implanted device if it is determined that the at least one implanted device is not operating properly.